

XIII. *A list of Chrysid*s taken by the writer in two visits to Jaffa, Jerusalem and Jericho, with descriptions of new species. By the Rev. F. D. MORICE, M.A., F.E.S.

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THE Chrysid

s enumerated below were taken (with one exception) by myself while visiting Palestine with Professor Dr. Schmiedeknecht in April 1899 and again, exactly ten years later, in March–April 1909. As many of the species are considered rarities I have thought that a list with precise dates and localities of capture may be of some use to future collectors or students of *Hymenoptera* from that district. It is possible that the list may not be quite complete, as I have given away a certain number of specimens as duplicates and am not sure that I have always kept record of these. But as far as it goes I believe it to be correct; and at least one specimen of each species has been determined or verified for me by the Vicomte R. du Buysson, so that the names here given may safely be trusted.

Our first visit to Palestine lasted only a fortnight (April 6–20, 1899), of which a week was spent at Jericho. In 1909 we were in Palestine for a full month (March 22 to April 20) and devoted three entire weeks (March 26 to April 16) to Jericho. But on this occasion the conditions of weather, etc., were far less favourable for collecting Chrysid

s than on our previous visit, so that the four weeks of 1909 produced not very many more species and probably fewer individual specimens than the fortnight of 1899. In all I seem to have found 28 species or named varieties, 13 of which occurred in 1899 only, 19 in 1909 only, and the remainder (15) in both years.

Naturally a large proportion of these Palestine Chrysid

s occur also in Egypt, but it is rather curious that among them is no representative of the genera *Hedychrum*, *Chrysogona* and *Stilbum*—all which occur (and the last at least abundantly) in the Delta. Nor do my captures include any *Notoxus*; and several of our commonest European species of *Chrysis*, such as *succincta*, *cyanca* and

even *ignita*, are also absent from my list. Many of these vacancies would doubtless have been filled up if I had remained in the country for another month. But to collect Chrysidids even for a month in *any* district without encountering a single *ignita* is, I should think, a most unusual experience.

As to the names of the localities quoted, Jaffa, Jerusalem and Jericho explain themselves, but each name covers a radius of two or three miles round the actual town. Ain Dilb is a pretty valley among the hills between Jerusalem and Jaffa, not far from Kolonieh. Khan Hadrur (the so-called "Inn of the Good Samaritan") is halfway between Jerusalem and Jericho. I collected there, only for half-an-hour or so each time, on three out of the four short halts made by the carriages which conveyed us from Jerusalem to Jericho and back—on the fourth occasion the weather made collecting impossible. The insects indicated as from "Bethlehem" were taken during an excursion through that place from Jerusalem to Marsaba, and their actual place of capture may have been anywhere along the route.

LIST.

- CLEPTES *syriacus*, Buys. Khan Hadrur, 26, iii, '09.
 ELLAMPUS *auratus*, L., var. *abdominalis*, Buys. Jericho, 11, iv, '99.
 PHILOCTETES *deflexus*, Ab. Jericho, 11–15, iv, '99.
 „ *chobauti*, Buys. Jericho, 11, iv, '99.
 HOLOPYGA *fervida*, F. Jericho, 28, iii, '09.
 „ *gloriosa*, F., var. *viridis*, Guer. Jericho, 5, iv, '09.
 „ „ var. *punctatissima*, Dhlb. Jericho, 4–15, iv, '99; 13–26, iv, '09.
 „ „ var. *ignicollis*, Dhlb. Jericho, 11, iv, '99.
 HEDYCHRIDIUM *femoratum*, Dhlb., var. *miricolor*, VAR. NOV., Jericho, 28, iii, '09.

In this curious variety the abdomen is coloured much as in typical *H. roseum*, i. e. it is scarcely metallic and more resembles pink coral. The head and thorax are coloured as in normal *femoratum*, but their surfaces (above) slightly more shining, the puncturation being more irregular and not quite so close.

SPINOLIA *dournovi*, Rad. Bethany, 9, iv, '99; Jericho, 10, iv, '99.

„ *herodiana*, n. sp. Jericho, 27, iii, '09. Five ♀♀ about burrows of *Odynerus* (*Hoplopus*) *variegatus*, F., near the stream coming from “Elisha’s fountain.”

This is evidently a true *Spinolia*, though its neuration is abnormal in that Genus, the radial cell not being more “open” at the apex than in several species of *Chrysis*.

SPINOLIA HERODIANA, n. sp. ♀.

Statura formaque *S. dournovi*, Rad., sed *tota* (supra subterque!) cupreo-fulgens, nonnusquam (praecipue in thorace postice) sub quadam incidentia lucis viridi suffusa (nusquam autem caeruleo); capite (facie pure viridi excepta), pleuris, sternis, tegulis, antennarum pedumque basibus concoloribus, tarsis tibiisque flavescentibus;

Clypei nitidissimi margine apicali (ut in *Sp. rugosa*, Buys.) evidenter exciso; abdominis apice fere simplici, haud spinuloso, lateribus vix angulatis, item serie ante-apicali fossularum fere nulla; abdominis dorso in medio longitudinaliter carinato, et colore ibidem plus minusve obfusato (violaceo vel plumbeo);

Differt ab omnibus Spinoliis hactenus descriptis nervo radiali alae anticae haud post inflexionem suam fere statim terminato sed continuato ita ut ad marginem alae multo propius accedat!

Long. corp. 7-8 mm.

EUCHROEUS *doursi*, Grib. Jericho, iv, '99; 6, iv, '09.

CHRYSIS *rebecca*, n. sp. Ain Dilb, 18, iv, '09.

This insect superficially resembles *C. cyanea*, but belongs to another of Dahlbom’s “Phalanxes,” the apex of the abdomen being simple or very slightly emarginate in the centre (not at all tridentate). It differs in other points of structure, and especially in the “genae,” which are much shorter and not convergent.

CHRYSIS REBECCA, n. sp. ♀.

Parva (long. corp. 6 mm.), viridis, hic illic aureo-micans, antennarum pedumque basibus concoloribus, tarsis nigris; dorsi areis nonnullis plus minusve caerulescentibus;

Genis mediocribus, longitudine articuli antennarum 4^{ti}; articulo hoc 5^{to} que simul sumptis articulo 3^{to} nonnihil longioribus; cavitate

faciali tenuiter striolata, superne a fronte (hac crasse punctata ac prominente sed vix transversim carinata) subarcuatim terminata; punctis thoracis segmentique abdominis 1^{mi} crassis rugosisque sed non profundis, huius segmentis 2^{do} 3^{tio} que tenuius irregulariter punctulatis; postscutello normali, subgibboso;

Abdominis serie ante-apicali fossularum (quattuor decem) bene impressa ac distinctissima; margine ipso apicali integerrimo, subtruncato, in medio lenissime intus sinuato, lateribus obtusissime angulatis ♀.

- C. incrassata*, Spin., var. *gratiosa*, Mocs. Jericho, iii, '09.
 „ *djelma*, Buys. Jerusalem, 24, iii, '09.
 „ *varicornis*, Spin. Bethlehem, 8, iv, '99; Ain Dilb, 18, iv, '09.
 „ *erigone*, Mocs. Jerusalem, 10, iv, '09.
 „ *pustulosa*, Ab. Jericho, 11, iv, '99; 28, iii, '09.
 „ *pelopocicida*, Buys. Jerusalem, 19, v, '96.

This specimen was not taken by myself; but as it is in my collection, and bears a definite date, I mention it.

- C. osiris*, Buys. Jaffa, 20, iv, '99. (Three ♀♀ visiting snail-shells occupied by cells of *Osmia ligulicornis*, Friese, on the dunes between Jaffa and Sarona. The bee occurred again 22, iv, '09, but I could not rediscover the Chrysid.)
 „ *ignifrons*, Brullé (= *aurifrons*, Dhlb.). Bethlehem, 8, iv, '99; Bethany, 9, iv, '99; Jerusalem, 10, iv, '99; Jerusalem, 24, iii, '09; Jericho, 31, iii, '09; Ain Dilb, 18, iv, '09.
 „ *osmiac*, Thoms. Jericho, iv, '09.
 „ *kohli*, Mocs. Khan Hadrur, 18, iv, '99; Jericho, 5, 15, iv, '09.
 „ *joppensis*, Ab.—Buys. Jericho, 16, iv, '99.
 „ *uniformis*, Dhlb. Jerusalem, 24, iii, '09.
 „ *oraniensis*, Luc. Jerusalem, 25, iii, '09.
 „ *cirtana*, Luc. Bethlehem, 8, iv, '99.
 „ *Lydiae*, Mocs. Jerusalem, 10, iv, '99; 24, iii, '09.
 „ *angustifrons*, Ab. Jericho, 12–16, '09; 6, iv, '09.
 „ *dichroa*, Dhlb. Bethlehem, 8, iv, '99; Bethany, 9, iv, '99; Jerusalem, 10, iv, '99; Jerusalem, 19–25, iii, '09.
 „ *barbata*, Buys. (The type specimen!) Jerusalem, 10, iv, '99.

- C. atechka*, Buyss. On umbellifers in a garden between Jericho and the Jordan ford, 14, iv, '09.
 „ *saussurei*, Chevr. Same place as the last, 14, iv, '09.
 „ *elegans*, Lep. Jericho, 12-18, iv, '99; 27, iii, '09; 6, 7, iv, '09.

In several of the ♂♂ the abdomen is brightly tinted with greenish gold, in others it is as usual deep-red.

- C. versicolor*, Spin. Jericho, 17, iv, '99; 3, 4, iv, '09.
 „ *bihamata*, Spin. Jericho, 6, iv, '09.
 „ *palliditarsis*, Spin. Jericho, 11, iv, '99.
 „ *annulata*, Ab.-Buyss. Three ♂♂ on umbellifers in garden between Jericho and the Jordan ford, 14, iv, '09.
 „ *viridula*, L. (= *bidentata*, L.). Bethany, 9, iv, '99; Jerusalem, 10, iv, '99; Jericho, 15, iv, '99; Jericho, 26, iii, '09, 13, iv, '09.

The specimens do not belong to any of the remarkable Mediterranean varieties, but are just like rather small normal British specimens.

- C. thalhammeri*, Mocs. One ♀ on umbellifers in garden between Jericho and the Jordan ford, 14, iv, '09.
 „ *amasina*, Mocs. Jericho, 31, iii, '09.
 „ *verna*, Dhlb. Jericho, 31, iii, '09.
 „ *mutabilis*, Buyss. Jericho 11-17, iv, '99; 27-31, iii, '09, 2, iv, '09.
 „ *incisa*, Ab.-Buyss. Jerusalem, 10, iv, '99.
 „ *rufitarsis*, Brullé (= *angulata*, Dhlb.). 10-15, iv, '99; 6-13, iv, '09.
 „ *facialis*, Ab.-Buyss. Jerusalem, 10, iv, '99.
 PARNOPES *schmicdeknechti*, Mocs. Bethany, 9, iv, '99
 Jerusalem, 10, iv, '99.